Course Syllabus

Jump to Today

Economics 355: Financial Markets and Institutions -- Spring 2022

Professor: Mahmoud A. El-Gamal (http://www.ruf.rice.edu/%7Eelgamal)

TA: Binyu Zhao (mailto:bz27@rice.edu)

Textbook: Mishkin, Frederic S. with Stanley G. Eakins, *Financial Markets and Institutions*, 9th ed., Prentice Hall, 2018
https://www.vitalsource.com/referral?term=9780134448763 (https://www.vitalsource.com/referral?term=9780134448763)

Classes: MWF 10:00--10:50 KRF 125

First two weeks, Jan 10-23, will be online. Check Zoom link.

Office Hours: M 12:30--1:30 KRF 429

This course covers most aspects of financial markets and institutions at a highly non-technical level (with very rare exceptions). Its objective is to allow students to read any major financial newspaper or website and understand most articles therein, with a deep understanding of the economic forces at work.

Students will read most of the textbook, and will be tested on the material therein through multiple choice assignments (which account for 10% of the grade). Similar multiple choice questions on textbook material will account for half the grades in three midterm and one optional substitute exam. Practice multiple choice questions for the assignments and exams are available under the Quizzes tab.

The other half of each exam's grade will be based on short answers to questions regarding current events, which will be covered in class, and summarized with links in lecture slides posted under the Files tab, as well as in-class experiments conducted using **MobLab** (https://www.moblab.com). Please create an account to access MobLab on your computer, and, if you prefer, install the mobile device app in preparation for class. Also, please follow the link here to create your free account to **access Wall Street Journal using your Rice NetID** (https://library.rice.edu/news/new-wall-street-journal).

There will be a review the week before each exam that covers the material for that exam. The overall grade will be calculated based on the best three out of four exams. All exams, as well as assignments, will be conducted online on **Canvas**.

	Mon	Wed	Fri	(Tentative) Syllabus	Textbook Readings
January	10	12	14	Introduction + Overview + Interest Rates	Chs 1-3
	17	19	21	MLK Day + Interest rates Risk + Term Structure	Chs 4-5
	24	26	28	Efficient Markets + Financial Institutions+ Review	Chs 6-7
Jan/Feb	31	2	4	Midterm I + Central Banking + Monetary Policy	Chs 9-10
	7	9	11	Money + Bond Markets + Spring Recess	Chs 11-12
	14	16	18	Stock Markets + Mortgage Markets	Chs 13-14
	21	23	25	ForEx Markets + International System + Review	Chs 15-16
Feb/March	28	2	4	Midterm II + International System + Banking	Chs 16-17
	7	9	11	Financial Regulation + Banking Industry	Chs 18-19
	14	16	18	Spring Break	
	21	23	25	Mutual Funds + Insurance	*Chs 20-21*
March/April	28	30	1	Investment Banks + Review	Chs 22-23
	4	6	8	Midterm III + Risk Management + Measurement + Stress Testing	Chapter 24
	11	13	15	Derivatives + Commodities Markets + Review of for Substitute Exam	
	18	20	22	Substitute Exam (optional) + Commodities & Energy Markets	

Grading:

Weekly Homeworks	10 %

First Midterm	30 %
Second Midterm	30 %
Third Midterm	30 %
Substitute for lowest Midterm (opt)	30 %

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 10, 2022	ECON 355 001 Sp22	10pm to 11pm
Wed Jan 12, 2022	ECON 355 001 Sp22	10pm to 11pm
Fri Jan 14, 2022	ECON 355 001 Sp22	10pm to 11pm
Mon Jan 17, 2022	ECON 355 001 Sp22	10pm to 11pm
Wed Jan 19, 2022	ECON 355 001 Sp22	10pm to 11pm
Fri Jan 21, 2022	ECON 355 001 Sp22	10pm to 11pm